
THREE-PEAT VICTORY: SPSPS Faculty of Law Crowned National Champion at Prestigious Moot Court Competition

Melboy R. Bulan

Cebu City—The Saint Paul School of Professional Studies (SPSPS) Faculty of Law has once again carved its name into legal academic excellence, clinching the National Championship title at the UC-Konrad Adenauer Stiftung International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition held on October 21–23, 2024, at Bai Hotel, Cebu City.

Team 432 of SPSPS, composed of oralists Joedel Peñaranda (JD 3A) and Hesus Adolfo Bucatcat (JD 3B), and researchers Melboy Bulan (JD 2B) and Ma. Trina Celine Cugas (JD 1B), showcased unwavering grit, intellect, and commitment. Their exceptional performance earned them not only the National Champion title but also the Overall Best Memorial and Best Memorial for the Applicant awards.

Their triumph did not end there. In a pool of eloquent and articulate advocates from law schools nationwide, Joedel Peñaranda stood the tallest as he was declared the Top 1 Best Oralist of the tournament. His teammate, Hesus Bucatcat, was also among the top oralists, ranking 9th overall, solidifying the team's dominance both in written and oral advocacy.

Meanwhile, Team 418 of SPSPS, composed of Lourieniel Dacillo (JD 5), Jacquelyn Isidro (JD 4), Patrick Anthony Cañedo (JD 1A), and Mac Bruen Ibañez (JD 1B), also made their mark by securing the 5th Best Memorial—a proud feat in itself.

Behind these brilliant minds are dedicated coaches who continue to nurture SPSPS's tradition of legal excellence—Judge Angiebel Divinagracia-Go and Atty. Dick Guillen Delfin. Their guidance, grounded in both academic rigor and real-world expertise, has been instrumental in preparing the teams for high-level national discourse.

The competition, spearheaded by the University of Cebu (UC) and supported by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Law Programme Asia, challenged students to explore complex issues on Protection of Forests, Rights of Environmental Defenders, and State Responsibility—themes that resonate powerfully in today's global legal landscape.

This victory marks SPSPS Faculty of Law's third National Championship within a span of a year—a rare feat that cements its status as a rising powerhouse in legal advocacy and education. The law school also emerged victorious at the 3rd Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Moot Court Competition on April 27, 2024, and the 2nd Inter-Law School Human Rights Debate Tournament on December 5, 2023.

The SPSPS Law Moot & Debate Society extended heartfelt gratitude to the SPSPS community, especially to President Erwin Vincent G. Alcala, Dean Raymund S. Gallardo, VD Felma Freda L. Lopez, and the Faculty of Law, whose steadfast support has fueled the team's victories. Special recognition was also given to the SPSPS Faculty of Law Bar Operations Team and the Lex Circle, whose behind-the-scenes support was pivotal to the team's preparation and morale.

More Than a Win, A Mission

For SPSPS, this championship is not just a trophy—it is a testament to what passion, preparation, and purpose can achieve. As the world faces pressing environmental challenges, the victory of these young legal advocates serves as a clarion call: that the next generation of lawyers is ready not only to argue but to act, defend, and lead.

As the school continues to rise in national and global academic circles, one thing remains clear: the Pauline spirit of excellence and service burns brighter than ever.



Cebu City - From the left (Shiela, Mac Bruen Ibañez, Lourieniel Dacillo, Atty. Dick Guiller Delfin, Joedel Peñaranda, Hesús Adolfo Bucatcat, Judge Angiebel Divinagracia-Go, Melboy Bulan, Ma. Trina Celine Cugtas, Patrick Anthony Cañedo, and Jacquelyn Isidro.)